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HABITAT: *ADELA BELLA* IN FLORIDA (INCURVARIIDAE: ADELINAE)¹

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Little is known of the biologies of adelid moths and the life history of *Adela bella* Chambers, in particular, is unknown. While beginning studies of the moth in March 1973 at Torreya State Park in the panhandle of Florida, males were found to congregate on the leaves of *Carpinus caroliniana* (Betulaceae) trees deep in the deciduous forest on the slopes overlooking the Apalachicola River (females were not found). Male congregations by adelid moths, however, do not necessarily indicate the oviposition host.

The illustration of the forest at Torreya State Park shows *Carpinus* mixed in with other deciduous trees and generally shows the shaded habitat in which *A. bella* may be encountered. The *Carpinus* leaves from which males were taken is in the upper foreground left and closest to the viewer near the top of the picture. The moth is diurnal like other adelids and is widely distributed in the eastern United States and Canada, occurring mainly in the Appalachian Mountains in the South. There have been other records of *A. bella* in Florida but the species is well established in this Apalachicola uplift at Torreya State Park which is ecologically similar to the southern Appalachians of northern Georgia and Alabama.

Males fly in a bouncing but slow fashion on sunny days (mid-March to mid-April in Florida), their long antennae held upwards. Moths are encountered flying or resting on *Carpinus* and other leaves and also near flowers.

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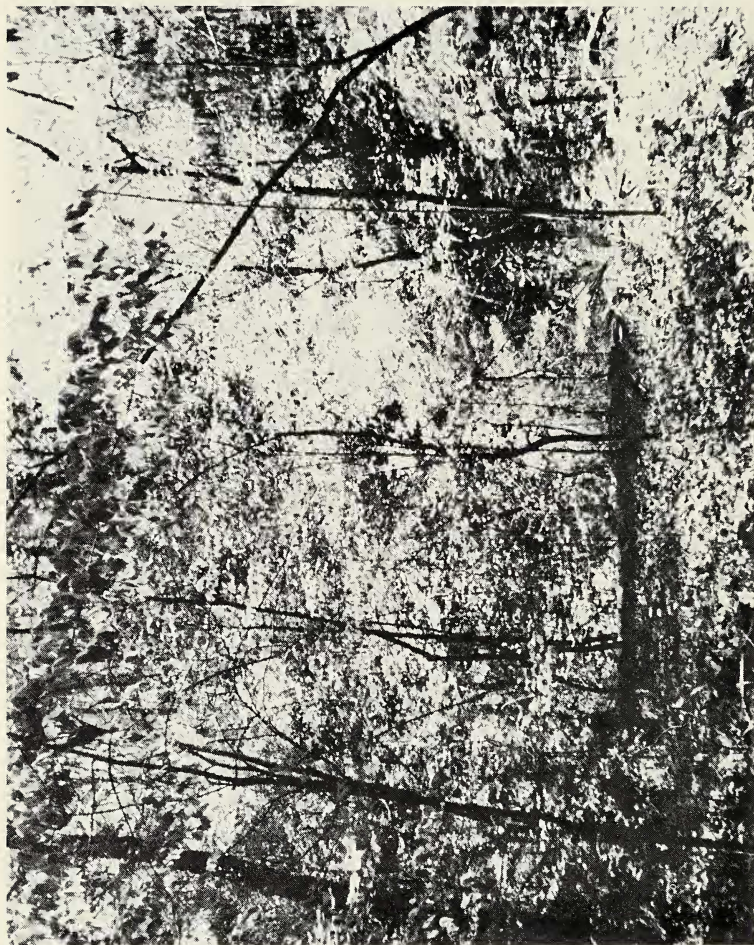


Fig. 1.—Deciduous forest habitat of *Adela bella* at Torreya State Park, Liberty Co., Florida. (19 Mar 1973)